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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/470,343	
	Filing Date	December 22, 1999	
	First Named Inventor	B. Martinez-Tovar	
	Group Art Unit	3641	
	Examiner Name	T. Chambers	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	7	Attorney Docket Number	P-1583

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Frederick A. Spaeth
Signature	<i>Frederick A. Spaeth</i>
Date	March 7, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: 03/07/2003	
Typed or printed name	Michelle E. Fetzner
Signature	<i>Michelle E. Fetzner</i>
Date	March 7, 2003

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: B. Martinez-Tovar et al : GROUP ART UNIT: 3641  
SERIAL NO: 09/470,343 :  
FILING DATE: December 22, 1999 : EXAMINER: T. Chambers  
TITLE: TITANIUM SEMICONDUCTOR BRIDGE :  
IGNITER : ATTY. DKT.: P-1583

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Box AF  
Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 7, 2003

Dear Sir:

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This paper is responsive to the office action mailed October 8, 2002 in the captioned application. A petition for an extension of time for reply to March 8, 2003 was filed, and the extension therefor paid, on March 7, 2003 in connection with the filing of a Notice of Appeal.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 are pending in the captioned application.

**Rejection of Claims 1-7, 9 and 11-24 Under 35 U.S.C. 102**

Claims 1-7, 9 and 11-24 (among which claims 1, 12, 18 and 21 are independent claims) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by PCT publication WO 9742462 of Martinez-Tovar (hereinafter referred to as "the Martinez-Tovar PCT application").

The Martinez-Tovar PCT application discloses a semiconductor bridge device comprising a bridge formation of semiconductor material on a substrate. The bridge is covered by a cap or cover layer 117 of metal having three strata, including a base stratum layer of titanium in contact with the semiconductor material, an intermediate stratum layer of titanium and tungsten, and a top stratum layer of tungsten (see the de-